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ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 161134Z MAY 06
FM USOFFICE PRISTINA
TO RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 0359
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6107
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 3390

UNCLAS PRISTINA 000420

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OTRA](#) [ASEC](#) [SR](#) [YI](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED TO JEFFREY HOVENIER

REF: VIENNA 1407

¶1. US Office Pristina welcomes and grants country clearance to Jeffrey Hovenier to visit Pristina May 17-19, 2006. The purpose of the visit is to attend UNOSEK team meetings in Pristina on decentralization and minority protection issues. Point of contact is Deputy Econ/Pol Chief David Whiddon, who can be reached at: office 381-38-549-516 ext. 3241; GSM 377-44-153 565; fax 381-38-549-890.

¶2. Post understands that Mr. Hovenier does not require assistance from USOP.

¶3. Kosovo is a cash (Euro) economy. There are a few operating ATMs and some large stores and hotels take credit cards. Not all ATMS are reliable and personnel should use normal ATM safety precautions. TDY personnel should bring sufficient cash or travelers' checks to cover all hotel and other incidental expenses and may exchange dollars for Euros from 9:00am-11:30am and 1:00pm-3:00pm each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 9:00am-11:30am each Thursday at the U.S. Office cashier. Only USOP accepts travelers' checks. Reverse accommodation is available at the end of the visit.

¶4. Security issues: The security situation in Kosovo is fluid and there is still risk from occasional episodes of violence; incidents of ethnic violence continue to occur. Land mines remain in some outlying areas. Civil society institutions generally do not yet meet Western standards. There is criminal activity against internationals, including purse snatching and residential break-ins and general precautions are recommended. KFOR is deployed throughout Kosovo. Electronic devices such as laptops (personal or official), PDA cell phones with cameras, and the like must be approved for use in USOP facilities by an ISSO in consultation with the RSO.

¶5. Travel to certain areas within Kosovo requires fully armored vehicles and advance RSO approval. To facilitate planning, please provide your travel itinerary to USOP before arrival, as same-day travel can be difficult to arrange. To provide appropriate access to USOP facilities, visitors must ensure all necessary security clearances are included with travel messages.

¶6. Please ensure ASEC tags are included to ensure proper distribution. Specific questions regarding security may be addressed to USOP's RSO or your control officer.

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